

1st February 1934]

EXEMPTION OF MUSLIM GIRLS FROM PAYMENT OF FEES IN SECONDARY
ARTS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, I have great pleasure in moving the motion standing in my name, namely—

'this Council recommends to the Government that Muslim girls may be granted exemption from payment of fees in all the secondary, arts and technical institutions in this Presidency until such time as Government would think that the problem of Muslim education is reasonably solved.'

"Sir, this resolution has been worded very carefully. The demand made in it is that, wherever Muslim girls are seeking education, particularly in colleges, secondary schools and technical institutions, they may be exempted from paying fees. Sir, it is a well-known fact that in the matter of education of the women of this country, they are very backward. If we want to encourage education among them, we should afford them facilities of all kinds so as to attract them to these institutions. From the figures that are given in the Government Report of the Director of Public Instruction you will find that the number of Muslim girls in colleges is very limited. There are not more than two or three in the arts colleges, and even in the secondary schools the number is very limited. The progress of education among Muslim women is very slow. I am not asking the hon. Minister to see that this concession should be meted out even in the case of girls whose parents can afford to pay the school fees. I am not requesting Government to take upon themselves the responsibility of making education free even for those people, whose parents can well afford to spend money on their education. But experience has taught us that the Government Orders in this respect have been so vague and indefinite that the authorities who give effect to these orders manipulate and interpret them in such a way that they defeat the very purpose for which they have been framed. They misinterpret and misuse these orders, because they are unwilling, or rather they do not want the Muslim children should get any scholarship at all. It is because of this fact that I have made this resolution general. If Government can assure us that the Government Orders will be such as will prevent any misuse and that every deserving person will get the concession that is sought for, I have absolutely no objection to any situation, where Government may not exempt persons who can afford to pay their children's school fees. In the matter of secondary education, we know, Sir, that it is on account of poverty that the Muslims in the various districts do not send their children to schools.

"Then the other difficulty is *purdah*. Of course, it is no doubt true, that some of my friends may come forward and say, 'why confine this concession to one community alone?' To this I have to say this: there are cases of grown up Muslim girls, who attend schools where *purdah* is compulsory. But since their number is small, Government will not find it possible to make arrangements for their convenience. Thus to make up for this double handicap of poverty to pay school-fees and conveyance charges, I am only trying to meet them half-way by this

4 p.m.

[Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan] [1st February 1934]

resolution. And it is only in such cases that I am asking for this concession. Hence I hope the hon. Minister will give his best consideration to this resolution and grant what is sought in this resolution.

“ I am glad the hon. Finance Member is luckily present on this occasion, and I appeal to him to co-operate with the hon. Minister in acceding to our request, because both the hon. Members are aware of the fact that if there is any community which is backward in education and thus retards the progress of the whole Indian Nation it is our community. Therefore it is necessary that the facilities asked for in this resolution should be granted at least for some time to come, at least till our community comes into line with the advanced ones. So, since I am asking for this concession for a short time, I hope and trust that Government will have no hesitation in giving it. In this I am sure I have the fullest support of hon. Members of this House; and so I have great pleasure in moving this resolution.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ Mr. President, Sir, in seconding this resolution I wish only to touch upon those aspects of the case which have not been traversed by my hon. Friend, the Mover. I submit, Sir, at the outset, that the acceptance of this resolution by Government will not involve them into any great financial commitment. The reports of the Director of Public Instruction point out that the increase under the last quinquennium in the percentage of Muslim school-going girls has been only from 4.5 to 5.1. This is the percentage that now obtains with regard to our community in the whole Presidency. And hon. Members will readily admit when I say that from 4.5 to 5.1 it is not a very great increase from the educational point of view. Sir, we are very grateful to the hon. Minister for having instituted a committee of inquiry into the condition of education in general and to propose measures as to how best to improve that. That committee submitted its report, and it is now nearly two years since it completed its labour, and so far Government have not been able to give effect to several of the important recommendations made by it, except perhaps one or two. Of course, one of the most important recommendations of the committee has been given effect to. That was very very vital to the Muslim community, and it had been insisting for it almost from time immemorial. Now, Sir, that recommendation of the committee accepted by the Government could, by now, have been given practical shape, but so far, no steps appear to have been taken in that direction. And that is a question which, I hope, Government will take seriously into consideration and give what they have already tacitly admitted in a practical, material and substantial manner.

“ Now, Sir, coming to the education of Muslim girls, the committee recommended them exemption of fees, and even went so far as to say that they should be given every facility in the matter of conveyance and free education. The concession of conveyance has been brought to the notice of Government on the floor of this House more than once, and I urge upon the Government to make a move in this matter at

1st February 1934] [Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed]

least as an experimental measure. And now when the whole Muslim community is fighting for the expansion of education of their children, I am sorry that at this critical juncture came forth the Champion Report quite inopportunately. Government have passed orders on that report and given a free hand to the district educational authorities in implementing those recommendations."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"On a point of order, Sir, the resolution before the House refers only to school fees, but the hon. Member is expatiating on all aspects of Muslim education."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I never thought my hon. Friend would be so hasty as to rise to a point of order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order, the hon. Member will at least now confine his remarks to the resolution before the House."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I submit, Sir, my remarks have been quite pertinent to the matter under discussion. I am sorry my friend does not see how the whole question of Muslim education is inter-related with this resolution. Now, Sir, the question of concession involves other items as well. The one handicap in the progress of Muslim education is the financial poverty of the community, and that financial poverty involves a number of things. I wish my friend had waited patiently till I reached the point which interests him. The only way by which this poverty can be combated is by providing Muslim girls with free conveyance and exemption of fees. Unless these two things are done, the backward community cannot hope to rise. As I said, the percentage of increase in school-going Muslim population has been nothing beyond .6. If my friend, the ex-District Board President of Coimbatore, helps his sister and brother community people, in whose midst he is living, whose support he seeks time and again and whose friend he claims to be, he can show a better percentage of increase in the Muslim school-going population than that from 4.5 to 5.1. Let him satisfy himself whether this is justice done to the Muslim community. He knows well that the case of this community goes by default in almost every municipality. It is only of late this community has taken to education, and so it is but fair and just that it is given every facility to rise to the level of other communities.

"In this connexion I want to bring to the notice of Government how rule 12 of the Education Rules has worked hardship on the Muslim community instead of good. That rule has been most mischievously in operation against my community; the concession meted out by that rule has not been availed of by the really deserving poor; in fact, in some cases, it was availed of by some indeed rich people. It has been in force for some years, and it has done much harm than good, and I urge upon Government to see that that rule is enforced fairly and justly.

"After all, Sir, the concession asked for in this resolution is only with regard to a few really deserving poor Muslim girls, and as such,

[Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed] [1st February 1934]

the financial commitment will be next to nothing; I will even say, it will be negligible. I therefore urge upon my Hindu brethren to support this motion and see that Muslim education thrives. I submit, with their advancement is connected the national welfare of the country, and so I appeal to my non-Muslim friends and to Government to give a helping hand to the education of the Muslim community, and particularly to that of the females of that community.

“Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding this resolution.”

4-15
p.m.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The motion before the House is that ‘This Council recommends to the Government that Muslim girls may be granted exemption from payment of fees in all the secondary, arts and technical institutions in this Presidency until such time as Government would think that the problem of Muslim education is reasonably solved’.”

* Mr. R. M. PALAT:—“Several speakers have spoken about the backwardness of the Muslim community. All the arguments advanced apply equally to various other communities of this Presidency. I believe Muslim religion advocates education among Muslim women quite as much as any other religion does. There is nothing in the religion which stands against Muslim women being educated. All the arguments cited apply with equal force to other backward communities. The emphasis should not be laid on religion but on backwardness.

“The next point that I want to say is that we do not want to give any concessions to persons who are rich even among Muslims. The reason why scholarship is given is to encourage poor persons to study. For instance, we do not want to give scholarships to Muslim girls who are daughters of Muslim merchant princes such as Mr. Ispahani. I do not think it is fair or necessary that Government should come forward with scholarships in their cases.

“Another thing I want to make clear is that in my resolution backward classes include the depressed classes. I want to extend the scope of this resolution so as to see that such communities as are backward and are poor are given scholarships. I do not know whether the Government are going to accept this resolution. But if they are going to accept this they will have to provide funds, because as the hon. the Chief Minister said almost all the local boards are on the verge of bankruptcy and they are not in a position to allot any funds for education. Therefore, if Government accept this and come forward with a subsidy the people will only be too glad to extend free education. I therefore move my amendment which runs as follows:—

‘In line 2 before the word “Muslim” insert the word “poor” and between the words “girls” and “may” insert the words “and poor girls belonging to the backward classes.”’

‘In line 4 for the word “Muslim” substitute the word “their”.’

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU:—“I second it.”

1st February 1934]

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, I too have given notice of an amendment which runs as follows:—

'Insert the words "and depressed classes" after the word "Muslim" in line 2, and delete the word "Muslim" in line 4 of the resolution inserting "their" in its place.'

"Mr. President, as things stand at present, the education of a community marks the progress of that community and my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, has clearly stated all the facilities that are required to make Muslim women progress in education and it is my humble duty to bring to the notice of the Government that the facilities now afforded to the women of the depressed classes are not enough to induce them to take up to higher education. Reading through the quinquennial report that has been submitted by the Director of Public Instruction I find that out of a total population of 3,792,450 of the depressed classes women of school-going age, those who actually attend schools are only 66,394. Of these those belonging to primary school are 75,290, middle school 1,070 and high school 34 and in the college course none. The women population of school-going age among Muhammadans is 1,674,221, of whom there are about 80,193 Muslim girls who attend schools. Of these those belonging to primary school are 79,833, middle school 319 and high school 30 and University and other institutions 11. That clearly shows that the depressed classes are far backward than the Muhammadans as far as education in high school and University classes is concerned. Sir, high school course is preparation ground for admission to the University course and unless some facilities are given to women that are reading in high school classes, it will not be possible to get any of them into the college course. Sir, going through the financial side, I find that Government are spending Rs. 17,92,842 from public funds for the education of men and women among Adi-Dravidas. By the term 'Adi-Dravidas' I mean, that it not only includes depressed classes, but also people belonging to several other communities such as Khonds, Koravas and several other communities. Taking Muslim education, the public fund spent by the Government on it comes to Rs. 20,73,512 though their population is far below that of the depressed classes. I think it will be seen therefore that our demand is just. Again, going through the report I find that in 1927-28 the depressed class girls who were studying in schools were 5,914, in 1928-29 7,904, 1929-30 9,268, 1930-31 10,746 and in 1931-32 8,645. Taking 1930-31 and 1931-32 figures, they clearly show that facilities are not enough to induce our girls to take to education. Taking this report into account again, I find there have been separate schools started for Muhammadan education which cater well to the needs and facilities of Muhammadan women. The facilities afforded to Muhammadans are far more than those afforded to backward communities. I may read for the information of the House the following paragraph from the report:—

'It is interesting to notice that while the percentage of scholars to population in respect of girls increased from 4.5 to 5.1 during the quinquennium under report, the percentage of boys decreased from 15.3 to 14.3. Since the increase

[Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai] [1st February 1934]

in population in respect of both men and women was almost equal the explanation for the increase in the percentage of girl pupils to the population and the decrease in that of boys is to be accounted for by the fact that there was proportionally a larger increase in the strength of girl pupils than in that of boys during the quinquennium. This is clear from the fact that the percentage of increase in the number of female scholars was 33 per cent and in that male scholars was 9 per cent.'

"This clearly shows that there has been an increase. Taking into account the percentage of depressed classes boys and girls I find there is an increase of .35. So, I would request that the Government will be pleased to consider this point and do something in the way of giving facilities to the depressed classes.

"Sir, unfortunately due to the abolition of labour schools after the retrenchment of 1932-32 facilities that were given to the depressed classes are lessening. Of course it may not be out of place if I begin to say that at a time when the Champion report is being rejected by the depressed classes and Muhammadans it is being enforced on such communities which do not welcome it, and so I think the Government must come to our rescue and do something to expand the education among the depressed classes."

Rao Bahadur R. SRINIVASAN:—"I second it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that the words 'and depressed classes' be inserted after the word 'Muslim' in line 2 and the word 'Muslim' in line 4 of the resolution be deleted."

Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMA spoke in Tamil and the following is the English rendering of the same:—

"Mr. President, Sir, Mr. Hameed Khan has pleaded on behalf of Muslim girls for a larger expenditure by Government for their education. It is a matter for gratification that education is spreading in the Muslim community not only among boys but also among girls. Though they observe Gosha, parents send their daughters to school even from distances of one or two miles. I have seen Muslim girls leave their houses as early as 7 o'clock in the morning and return home from school at 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening. Many of them belong to poor families. Their parents are very anxious to educate them. But they have not enough money to spend on the education of their daughters. It is necessary to give assistance in such cases. It is wrong to suppose that there is no desire among Muslims for education. They too yearn for knowledge and education like other civilized communities. This is as it should be. They know that the Government is doing something to further the cause of education among them. Their desire, however, is that Government should do more than what is doing at present which is not sufficient. It is my opinion that even as Government is earmarking sums of money for various other purposes, they should set apart a larger amount than they do at present for education. It is highly desirable that children of poor families should be helped by Government. It is true, as Mr. Palat has observed, that there are many wealthy merchants among Muslims. It should, however, be acknowledged that some of them are doing their duty in this

1st February 1934] [Mrs. K. Alamelumangathayaramma]

respect. But the matter should be left entirely to their benefactions. The Government also should do more than they are doing at present to help these poor children. I heartily support the resolution brought forward by Mr. Hameed Khan."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Mr. President, Sir, I desire to place before the House some difficulties which managers of institutions and local bodies will have to encounter if this resolution is passed in this present form without the Government promising any support to those institutions. Probably it will be easy for the Government to accept this resolution for the simple reason that responsibility will be thrown on others' shoulders. So far as elementary education is concerned, what is now being done by the Government is to allot a certain amount of money to schools existing in a particular area and expect the District Educational Council of that area to distribute the amount among the schools in that area. So that whatever may be the number of schools that may be started from time to time in that area, whatever may be the amounts of grants to which those schools may be entitled on account of the progress shown by them, the District Educational Council is entirely powerless to ask the Government for more and has only to distribute the amount at its disposal among the various schools claiming grants. The result is that many institutions which should be shown concessions are denied those concessions. The same is the case with regard to secondary and collegiate education. The concessions given to backward class pupils are not taken into account in calculating the grants to which the schools are eligible; at least the half-fee concessions are not taken into account. Though it is stated that the department takes these concessions into account in practice, we can easily convince any dispassionate person who wants to examine this question that such backward class concessions are not at all taken into account. If this resolution is carried and if full concessions are to be given to Muhammadan and backward class pupils, it will mean that the finances of the managements of these institutions will be curtailed by the amount of the concessions granted by them and the amount available for higher education will be reduced. If the Government are in a position to assure the House that they will increase the allotment in the education budget by the amount that will be required to meet the demands arising from the passing of this resolution, it will be very good. As has been observed by several hon. Members education has not progressed sufficiently among several communities and the only panacea for all the ills from which our country is suffering is education. I am very sorry to observe that the hon. Minister for Education has, whether knowingly or unknowingly, led himself into a situation in which his department is perhaps the most starved of all the departments of Government at present. By one device or another, as I stated in connexion with another matter, a lot of money is taken away from the Education Budget. The hon. Minister must be aware of the controversy over the question of the Champion report which recommends the centralization of several schools. I am afraid that in this matter the department is having its own way. I read in the news-

4-30
p.m.

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti] [1st February 1934]

papers that in a particular taluk some schools have been abolished in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Champion report. That will mean that schools will become less and less accessible to poor boys and girls and as a consequence they will be denied education. I would therefore suggest to the hon. Mover of this resolution and the hon. Mover of the amendment to word the resolution in such a way as to make it clear that the whole burden of giving effect to it will fall on the Government and not on the managements of these institutions. I would suggest that if the management of a school receive a certificate from the department authorizing them to admit a certain pupil of the backward class on full fee concession, they must admit that pupil but they should be allowed to cash such authorizations at the counter of the department."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry to remark that the criticism of the resolution by the hon. Member is rather unhealthy. I can understand him if he moves an amendment to the resolutions, but I cannot understand the criticism he has chosen to make of the resolution. He has said that no concession should be shown to any community or he would like such concessions to be governed by the amendment he has moved. The inconsistent position he has taken up shows that his criticism is not of a healthy nature. That is not the spirit in which we should approach the question. Talking about giving concessions to this community or that community, he could have advocated the cause of the particular community he is interested in, but I submit that the attitude he has taken on this question and the criticism he made of the resolution are quite unsatisfactory. This is the second time to-day when he has come in for a criticism of this kind.

"Now, Sir, the amendment wants that only poor girls of the Muslim and other communities should be given fee concessions. No doubt to all appearance it seems to be a reasonable one, but there is already rule 92 of the Educational Rules dealing with this matter and it has not been given effect to at all in spite of the fact that the attention of the Government has been drawn to it on the floor of this House on many occasions by several hon. Members. What we want to achieve by this resolution is to ensure that fee concessions for poor girls do not share the same fate as that of the concessions under rule 92 to which I have just now referred. I have no objection whatever to girls of other communities also being given the concessions asked for in this resolution. But under the cloak of the word 'poor,' girls whether they are proved to be rich or poor are not given the concessions to which they are eligible under rule 92. It is however within the knowledge of many persons that rich persons who are influential get these concessions. It is not often the deserving poor that get these concessions. What I want to see is that the fate of Muslim girls who may get these concessions under the amendment now proposed should not be the same as that of the boys eligible for concessions under rule 92. I do not see why there should be any objection to that course.

1st February 1934] [Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig]

The hon. Member, Mr. R. M. Palat, who is keenly interested in educational matters should have known how rule 92 is worked in practice. If he looks into the records of the schools under his management, he will see how the rule is applied. The rule says that unless the management is doubtful about the poverty of the parents of the students, straightaway half-fee concession should be given. That was the interpretation put by the Government also after the resolution was passed in this Council. Under the circumstances, I request the Government to see that girls of Muslim and backward communities are given fee concessions in order that communities which are backward in education may progress in elementary education. Can there be any possible objection to this resolution at all? I must also say, Sir, as my friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed has pointed out, that so many obstacles are placed in our path just at a time when we are trying to improve our education. It may be for the general good of the country that amalgamations should take place, but I wish to point out that just at a time when we are beginning to progress, these obstacles are placed in our path. It may be that statistics may show an improvement in education among Muslim girls here and there, but whatever improvement there has been, it has been only in primary education, because the little girls are sent to schools so that they might not tease their parents. But what sort of education do they receive there in such schools? They do not learn even the three R's there. They continue in the schools up to the age of seven or eight and then they become goshas and do not attend schools. If the statistics show any rise in female education among Muslims, it is only the numbers in the primary schools that go to make up the increase. What is sought by this resolution is to ask the Government to give encouragement to girls reading in secondary schools and colleges. The Government have already taken some steps by passing rule 92 and there is nothing extraordinary in asking the Government that certain backward communities should be given some encouragement in the matter of fee concessions so that education may progress among them. It is not merely on the ground that poor students should be helped but it is also with the view to encourage education among women of a particular community which is really backward. It is needless for me to say that unless women are educated, there will be no progress whatever in any community. I have therefore great pleasure in supporting the resolution of my friend, Mr. Hameed Khan."

Mr. M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—" Mr. President, Sir, this resolution as it is worded is moved with a view to force the Government to grant certain concessions to all Muhammadan girls irrespective of the fact whether their parents are rich or poor. Rule 92 clearly says that not only Muslim girls, but girls of other backward communities reading in Form III and lower classes are eligible for full fee concession, if it is shown that their guardian or parents are poor. Girls are entitled to half-fee concessions for higher classes. The rule says fee concessions shall be given. The Grant-in-Aid Code also

[Mr. M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo] [1st February 1934]

provides that the loss incurred by the institution should be made good by the Government. But what the Government do is they do not in practice make good the loss, though the rule is there. They do not give any compensation at all either to schools under private management or to schools under public management. The rule has been practically repealed by the Government. Rule 92 is really a dead letter. Certain suggestions were made on the last occasion. It was suggested that rules might be framed making it compulsory that District Educational Officers should go and examine the accounts and registers of the schools and see whether these concessions are properly granted or not. That is not done. Therefore it depends entirely on the sweet will and pleasure of managers of private schools, of chairmen of municipal councils and of presidents of local boards to grant the fee concessions or not. They do not grant any concession at all. It is open to them to give these concessions. What they do is, they say that these girls do not come from poor families. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, said, if an official, or a president of a local board or a chairman of a municipality says that a girl is poor, she deserves concession. The whole trouble arises from the fact that the Government have not passed any rules making it compulsory to grant concessions. If it is made compulsory, the Government will have to make good the loss incurred by the schools. Only to save money, the Government have not done that. I think the Government would do well to cancel rule 92 and the provision in the Grant-in-Aid Code. Why should the Government say that they have framed the necessary rules and that the local bodies are expected to give effect to them? Practically you are denying the concessions. The Government throw the blame on the local bodies; they should take it upon themselves. As it is, rule 92 will be quite sufficient and this resolution is not necessary. But what the Government have to do is to make good the loss incurred by the schools."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I support the amendment of Mr. Muniswami Pillai and the original proposition of Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan. Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig said that Mr. Muniswami Pillai supported the case of his own community as against that of the Muhammadan community. If concessions are applied on behalf of certain communities, and are given, it is at the expense of the general taxpayer. When at the expense of the general taxpayer, concessions are given I am of opinion that such concessions should be given to the largest number possible. The girls of both the Muhammadan community and the depressed classes deserve the attention of the Government. While the Muhammadan community wants that their purdah girls should be given facilities by way of conveyance, I think that the girls of the depressed classes should be given facilities by way of midday meals. If only the Government have the necessary funds, I will gladly support the resolution to its fullest extent. I am glad that Mr. Patnaik brought to the notice of the Council how rule 92 is given effect to. Even though that rule might be observed by Government schools and schools under local boards, it is not at all

1st February 1934] [Mr. C. S. Ratnasabhapatil Mudaliyar]

observed by private schools. As chairman of a municipal council I am empowered to grant poverty certificates. When I give such certificates and when they are produced, the managers of private schools cannot refuse the concessions; to get over the difficulty they say that there is no accommodation for such pupils and refuse admission. Thus they get over rule 92. With these words I support the amendment and the resolution."

Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM spoke in Tamil.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I need hardly assure hon. Members that any attempts to secure concessions with a view to facilitate the spread of education amongst girls will receive my sympathy. The resolution moved by the hon. Member, Mr. Hameed Khan, though worded somewhat generally, was explained by him with his characteristic fairness as not meaning that the concessions that he asks for should be granted indiscriminately to all pupils whatever the status of their parents may be. The daughter of a High Court Judge, or of a District Judge or of a Member of the Executive Council certainly does not require the pittance of a fee concession to enable her to study in any educational institution. Only in the case of pupils whose parents cannot afford to bear the cost of educating their daughters, this concession is required. I will point out to the hon. Member that rule 92 though not worded in exactly the same terms as those used by my hon. Friend, is in effect the same as what he has said. A perusal of the rule would show to my hon. Friend that the test to be applied to decide the question whether fee concession should be given or not, is whether it is necessary to enable the pupil to continue or to undertake studies in an educational institution. That, I may submit, is in effect the same as my hon. Friends have said must be the test that should be applicable in such cases.

"I may, for the information of the House, just mention a word or two as to what the present state of things is with regard to fee concession for girls. Up to the III Form not only girls of the Muslim community but girls of other communities also are exempted from payment of all fees if such exemption is necessary to enable them to continue their studies. For classes above III Form, half-fee concession is granted, subject of course to the same proviso as in the case of the lower classes. This rule was framed and brought into effect in the year 1929 in pursuance of a desire of this hon. House itself that exemptions from the payment of the fee in full should be granted up to III Form and not for classes beyond that. We have been working the new rule from the year 1929. If, as I can gather from several hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion the concessions granted have not resulted in any appreciable progress in female education, certainly it is time to consider what further concessions should be granted. I am in entire agreement with my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai and others who spoke in support of him, that it is not the Muslim community alone that stands in need of help but other communities also do equally deserve concessions for the education of their girls. I am glad to note that my Muslim friends who have spoken on this

[Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar] [1st February 1934]

5 p.m.

resolution have spoken in appreciative terms of what the Government have done with regard to the imparting of religious education to Muslim pupils in schools. When any special conditions prevail amongst them—conditions which do not obtain amongst other communities in the Presidency—which justify preferential treatment being granted to them, without fear of the opposition that it might rouse, the Government have been prepared to show them that preferential treatment. But I must say that in this case I do not think that there are any conditions specially applicable to the Muslim community which do not apply to other communities as well. Backwardness in female education is not confined to the Muslims alone. It is perhaps found in even a greater degree as my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai pointed out, amongst the depressed classes, and there are several other communities also which are not very advanced in the matter of education amongst their girls.

“The Government themselves have realized, when passing that order which has been embodied in rule 92 of the Educational Rules, that in the case of girls under instruction, greater concessions are required than in the case of boys. In the case of the boys, my hon. Friends would realize that the highest concession that is granted is only a half-fee concession. It is only in the case of girls that full-fee concession is granted up to the III Form. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: ‘Then recast the rules.’) My hon. Friends, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, and Mr. Patnaik have brought to the notice of this hon. House that rule 92 has not been worked in conformity with the intention of the framers of that rule.”

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“On a point of order, Sir. It is already past 5 p.m.; may I know if the Council is going to sit longer to-day?”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“If the hon. Minister has no objection to continue his speech on the next non-official day, i.e., in August next, the Council may rise now.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“I shall finish my speech in just a minute or two, Sir. (An hon. Member: ‘Mr. Hameed Khan himself has no objection to the postponement.’) In that case, I have no objection to continue my speech on the next non-official day, Sir.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.